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# Extension Service Review

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## In This Issue

“WHAT Do Farmers Want?”, That is the question and the answer comes from Illinois; not one answer but 14, for there were 14 obstacles in as many communities which had to be overcome. Randolph County farmers have brought their problems into the open where they can get a clear view of needs and possible solutions toward making farm life richer and more satisfying. All lanes of cooperation with other groups are being explored by these thinking people, in seeking to gain their goal.

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WHEN “Forty Minnesota Counties Discuss the Situation” farmers in the State must be interested in national problems that have local significance. Six county discussion meetings held during the early spring of 1935 furnished the stimulus. Stressing their desire to hold similar conferences and discussions during the coming year, 106 of the 150 who attended the 1935 meetings have filed replies to questionnaires regarding possible discussion material. Forty counties are on the tentative schedule for 1936.

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THE “Sound Use of Credit” by farm youth has been approved by the Farm Credit Administration. Loans may be used for the purchase of livestock, feed, and seed, as well as for other farm purposes. In this article S. M. Garwood, production credit commissioner for F. C. A., tells of the activity of a future farmers chapter, and shows how this new type of loan will teach the young people the use of sound credit.

• • •

“TAKE a New Lease”, not on life, as the saying goes but on some old extension activities, says Director Warburton. Extension work keeps growing—that is a good sign—and the additional financial aids which are offered during the past year have made possible an increase in extension personnel and effectiveness.

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The director places special emphasis on the development of a program for young men and women on the farm.

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THE facts that County Agent H. L. Becker, Oneida County, Wis., learned from drought records will materially aid him in planning his work in the future. He has studied the farm debt situation and the relation of the size of farm to farm income in his county.

## On The Calendar

Southern Agricultural Workers Conference, Jackson, Miss., February 1-7.

Eastern States Regional Conference, Boston, Mass., February 19-21.

Tucson Livestock Show and Sale, Tucson, Ariz., February 23.

Supervisors and Teachers of Home Economics of National Educational Association, St. Louis, Mo., February 25-26.

Houston Fat Stock Show, Houston, Tex., February 29-March 8.

Southwest Texas Boys Fat Stock Show, San Antonio, Tex., February 26-28.

Sixtieth Annual Convention Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, Amarillo, Tex., March 10-12.

Home Economics Association Meeting, Seattle, Wash., July 6-9.

CONTESTS contribute toward making communities “A Good Place to Live” say 27 Negro community improvement groups in Virginia. The contest was sponsored as a part of the tenth year of activity on the part of the Negro State advisory board which is composed of representatives from the counties in Virginia employing extension agents.

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EXTENSION directors pause “On the Threshold of a New Year”, not to rest on their achievements, but to appraise the results of 1935 in order to lay better plans for 1936. They find that extension work has continued to grow in the esteem of the Nation, and look forward with confidence in the ability of the extension service to meet any situation that arises.

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“MONTANA Off to Good Start in County Program Planning” tells how in 1927 the State Extension Service and cooperating agencies began the search which has resulted in a wealth of material available for county planning use.

THE EXTENSION SERVICE REVIEW is issued monthly by the EXTENSION SERVICE of the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. The matter contained in the REVIEW is published by direction of the Secretary of Agriculture as administrative information required for the proper transaction of the public business. The REVIEW seeks to supply to workers and cooperators of the Department of Agriculture engaged in extension activities, information of especial help to them in the performance of their duties, and is issued to them free by law. Others may obtain copies of the REVIEW from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., 5 cents a copy, or by subscription at the rate of 50 cents a year, domestic, and 75 cents, foreign. Postage stamps will not be accepted in payment.

C. W. WARBURTON, Director

C. B. SMITH, Assistant Director

L. A. SCHLUP, Acting Editor



# What Do Farmers Want?

**W**HAT is needed to make farm life richer and more satisfying? What stands in the way of farmers getting these things? These two questions formed the basis for a series of discussions in 14 communities of Randolph County during the months of August and September. The August meetings were devoted to discussing the question, "What do farmers want to make farm life richer and more satisfying?" During September the discussions were on "What stands in the way of farmers getting what they want?" based on the suggestions coming out of the August meetings.

In almost every community of the county in which these questions were discussed the farm people declared they needed (1) better roads, (2) modern homes, (3) shorter hours, (4) better organization, (5) more cooperation, (6) a good productive farm, (7) more equitable taxation, (8) continuation of the A. A. A., (9) a larger farm income, (10) better schools, (11) ability to meet adverse weather conditions, (12) better social life in the community, (13) a good, healthy body, and (14) equal rights with industry. Other needs expressed, in some but not all of the meetings, were better family cooperation, better church life, owning the farm operated, modern machinery, electricity on the farm, insect control, more farm labor, better markets, cooperative buying, better crops, wiser use of credit, and home beautification.

How can farmers satisfy their wants . . . Discussion bares vital needs in Illinois County . . . 14 communities find 14 obstacles which must be overcome . . . Basis laid for community programs and action, reports D. E. Lindstrom, Illinois specialist in rural sociology.

These expressed needs required further analysis if they were to be made the basis of an extension program in the communities. An answer to the question, "What stands in the way of meeting them?" would make it possible to find at least partial solutions. When approached thus, as many as a dozen obstacles were found to stand in the way of meeting each of the 14 needs outlined. Each major need was discussed separately and the following were some of the more important obstacles reported.

Better roads in Randolph County were not being provided the farm people as rapidly and as effectively as they would like. Lack of knowledge as to how to obtain W. P. A. help, lack of definite county-secondary road system planning, lack of material suitable for farm-to-market road surfacing, inactive or inefficient commissioners, lack of money and improper use of money available, selfishness in giving right-of-way, not enough C. C. C. road camps, lack of cooperation among the people themselves, unfair treatment (giving city people undue advantages), too many road supervisors,

poor management, too much road machinery, too much politics, lack of knowledge as to road building, lack of interest among farmers themselves, unfair division of gas-tax funds, lack of public interest, and high cost of material were the chief things farmers of the county said stood in the way of getting better roads.

## *Universal Desire for Modern Homes*

**L**ACK of available money stood first in the way of farm people getting modern homes. Nonownership of farms, too high operating costs, bad roads, no high line, water shortage, lack of power, lack of realization on the part of farm people of their own advantages, lack of knowledge as to how to work at little expense, lack of knowledge as to what is a modern home, too high cost of equipment, lack of the desire on the part of some women for modern conveniences, a greater desire for other things, lack of knowledge as to how to have better things without high money costs, lack of interest on the part of renters, inequality with industry, lack of cooperation, and lack of ambition were obstacles mentioned most frequently. Here are problems, indeed, around which an extension program could be built.

Why don't farm people have shorter hours? "Our men won't quit work", emphatically declared the farm women. Weather conditions won't permit; there is not enough improved machinery; prices are so low farmers cannot afford help; poor management; farmers don't know when to quit; customs; necessity for doing work in season; lack of farm organization; lack of modern conveniences (including electricity); too much work for the members of the family on the farm; greed; and bad habits. The realization by farm people that these obstacles must be overcome indicates a real desire for shorter hours. The solution of these problems will go far to  
(Continued on page 12)



The discussion group gets down to deep thinking on what stands in the way of a higher standard of living.



## Forty Minnesota Counties

# Discuss the Situation

**S**ERIES of group-discussion meetings held in each of six counties in Minnesota, February 28 to April 10, 1935, were so successful that 106 of those who attended out of 150 who received questionnaires after the meetings were over reported that they would like to attend a similar series this winter. The attendance in all counties was highly satisfactory, considering the weather conditions of the period, and the interest was so great that those in charge, W. C. Coffey, acting director of extension, and L. A. Churchill, district leader of county agents, in reporting results to the United States Department of Agriculture suggested similar meetings for the winter of 1935-36 in as many counties as might be interested. Forty counties are now scheduled.

Six counties, representing different types of farming areas in Minnesota, were selected for the first series. These were Crow Wing, in the cut-over area of northeastern Minnesota; Norman, in the Red River Valley; western part of Otter Tail, as representative of west-central Minnesota; Winona, of the dairy-farming country in southeastern Minnesota; Freeborn, a corn-hog county in southern Minnesota; and Scott, near St. Paul and Minneapolis.

In Crow Wing the aim was to bring together 20 or 30 farmers and business men from the farm bureau, the county A. A. A. organization, and commercial groups. In Norman County an effort was made to bring together a group of 20 or 30 representative farmers. In west Otter Tail it was decided to see what could be done with a group of about 100 farmers, with a sprinkling of business men representing various county activities. In Freeborn again the group was large, including, in addition to farmers and business men, a considerable number of women. In Winona County a group of about 25 farmers was brought together which included men, women, and young people, leaders in various activities. In Scott County the group consisted of about 50, including several young men and members of the A. A. A. and other organizations.

The various groups were hand-picked but were not exclusive. That is, the county agents made up lists of those they thought would be interested in taking part in the proposed discussions and in-

cluded them to attend, but others who wished to attend were not barred. Advance material, covering the subjects to be discussed, was sent to those listed in each county.

Because of a lack of time for preparation, those who arranged the meetings selected the subjects and the leaders. The subjects were as follows:

1. Should farm production be controlled as a long-time policy?
  2. What kind of a land policy should the Nation have?
  3. What should be the national foreign-trade policy from a farmer's viewpoint?
  4. What are the relations of the producer to the consumer of farm products?
  5. What are the principles of a good tax system?
  6. What kind of a rural life can we look forward to in the United States?
- Two plans were followed at first. One, tried with two of the groups, was the forum plan. The leader opened with a somewhat formal presentation of the subject, taking a half hour or more, and then members of the group asked questions. The other, altogether informal, opened with a very brief explanation of the subject by the leader, and then followed questions and expressions of opinions and views by group members. The latter method proved so much more satisfactory than the forum plan that the forum plan was abandoned altogether after two or three meetings.

The aim throughout was to develop an atmosphere of informality and ease. In four of the counties the meetings were held in commercial club rooms, and when the group members came together they were seated in easy chairs in a large circle, with the leader as one of those in the circle. For the larger groups this arrangement was not so satisfactory, but everything possible was done to encourage an attitude of informality. The meetings were called to order promptly at the announced hour, regardless of the number present, and were adjourned 2 hours later. However, adjournment did not mean the closing of the discussions. Frequently numbers of those present lingered for the further interchange of opinion. Adjournment, however, made it easy for those having a considerable distance to go to get away. Follow-up material for later read-

ing by members was distributed. Therefore, group members went away better informed than before regarding subjects of great importance.

That the interest was sustained throughout is shown by the following figures of attendance:

County	Average attendance	Those at 4 or more meetings
Crow Wing.....	24	21
Freeborn.....	47	37
Norman.....	22	18
Scott.....	37	28
Otter Tail (western part).....	48	41
Winona.....	20	17

After the meetings, a questionnaire was sent to 150 of the group members. Of these, 106 were filled out in detail and returned. All of those answering said that the meetings had been well worth the time spent on them and that they would like to attend a similar series of meetings another winter.

## New Appointment In Central States Extension



**K**ARL KNAUS has been appointed field agent in county agent work in the Central States for the Extension Service of the United States Department of Agriculture to

fill the position made vacant by the recent promotion of H. W. Gilbertson to the position of regional agent in charge of extension work in that section for the Department.

Mr. Knaus comes to Washington from Indiana where he was assistant county agent leader. He was raised on a Kansas farm and managed the home farm for 2 years before becoming county agent in Cloud County, Kans. He has had a total of 18 years of experience in extension work. He spent 6 years in extension supervision in each of the States of Kansas and Indiana, following 6 years of experience as a county agent in Kansas and Michigan. His first experience in extension work was as a member of a corn club in 1904, a forerunner of the present 4-H clubs. Mr. Knaus holds bachelor of science and master of science degrees in agriculture from Kansas State College, majoring in agricultural education with special emphasis on extension methods.



# Sound Use of Credit



**S. M. Garwood**  
Production Credit Commissioner  
Farm Credit Administration

CULTIVATING 15 acres of deciduous fruit and 15 acres of barley and raising 1,000 chickens, 350 turkeys, and a batch of baby beef cattle are all in the day's work of the boys and girls of Hemet Future Farmers Chapter of Riverside, Calif.

Under the leadership of Elra G. Garrison, vice president, the Hemet Future Farmers rent 155 acres for its project work, which was financed during the past year in a thoroughly business-minded fashion by a loan of \$500 from the Riverside Production Credit Association.

The loan was used to purchase livestock, feed, and seed, as well as gas and oil for the rented tractor used in connection with the students' agricultural project. Plots of land are sublet to members on the same terms as the chapter leases the entire plot.

In its application for a production loan the Hemet Future Farmers listed assets which the inspector of the production credit association was able to report as giving the chapter a net worth of more than \$600, including crops on hand, feed, and equipment. One of the most interesting things about the Hemet chapter is the fact that their financial nest egg includes premiums obtained by exhibitions at fairs.

The loan to the Hemet chapter is one of eight made to groups of future farmers in California during the past year under the plan worked out by production credit associations to finance the projects of future farmers, 4-H club members, and other organized groups of

vocational agricultural students. Loans were made in California, Texas, Tennessee, West Virginia, and other States.

### Plan Teaches Sound Use of Credit

THIS year the plan has been expanded and simplified to make it serve a larger number of groups. The production credit associations are doing this, not merely to stimulate more group projects or put more money into the pockets of farm boys and girls, but also to give farm boys and girls an opportunity to learn first-hand about business methods, and to give them a wholesome respect for credit and a proper understanding of the value of a good credit rating.

Credit properly used is a valuable farm servant; credit abused is an unending source of regret. In assisting boys and girls to borrow money for group projects, the production credit associations are requesting vocational agricultural teachers and leaders to exercise every means to impress upon the

borrowers the seriousness of their undertaking.

The new plan makes it possible for organized groups of farm boys and girls to grow crops or raise livestock under the direction of a vocational agricultural teacher, county agent, or other responsible group leader. Only projects which are sound and beneficial may be financed, and they must involve the production of commodities which are readily marketable.

The money may be borrowed under a trustee agreement and turned over to the leader of the group, if he is a responsible person, even though he may not be eligible to borrow from the association in his own right as a farmer. The old plan which required an eligible borrower to endorse the loan may still be used, but the new one promises to be more workable for many groups.

### Loans Over \$50

LOANS of \$50 or more may be made directly to an individual farm boy or girl in much the same way that loans are made to their fathers, provided a parent, guardian, or other responsible adult, who is an eligible borrower, endorses the note. But, under the group

project plan, students who individually need smaller amounts than \$50, which is the minimum loan to an individual, may pool their credit needs and obtain a loan as a group.

A group loan of less than \$50 will be made to the boys' leader who acts as trustee under a simple agreement signed by every member and his or her father, or other responsible adult. The leader signs the note "as trustee" for the entire amount loaned to the group. The loan is also secured by the individual note of each member of the group for the amount advanced to him. The note of each member of the group must be signed

(Continued on page 4)



Young farmers learn the value and the pitfalls in using farm credit to finance their crop and livestock work.



# County Planning Plus Outlook

## Enlarges and Strengthens Extension Program in Iowa

THE efficient organization which has been handling the outlook information in Iowa so successfully has been enlarged to include the new county adjustment planning work. This was introduced at a 3-day conference of county agents late in November with 93 counties represented. The outlook work was made a definite first step in the county planning project. The agents were accustomed to the outlook, and it furnished background, as well as a fine point of departure, in explaining the more ambitious county planning scheme.

### Training County Agents

THE first day was given over to a presentation of the outlook by members of the extension staff. Sections of the outlook were presented by different methods, such as reading the report and presenting charts with no discussion, a summary given first and followed by a discussion of the charts, and a discussion with charts followed by a summary. The agents were asked to observe and appraise the relative effectiveness of the various methods both for the use of State conferences and for farmers' meetings.

The second day the county agricultural-planning project was explained with talks on the general objectives and outlined procedure in the country as a whole, as well as the tentative outline for procedure in Iowa counties, a discussion of background charts and county data, with examples of county trend data.

On the third day, the agents met in 5 groups, and 3 of the agents drawn by lot in each group gave a presentation of the material as they had obtained it on the 2 previous days. After this, the agents, at their own request, took a written examination on the outlook information and asked that their papers be corrected and returned to them.

This county-agent training meeting was followed by a series of outlook meetings to present economic background material in every county. The general objectives of the county planning project were introduced. The county committeemen selected prior to the meet-

ings were of material assistance in conducting the outlook meetings.

### County Planning Meetings

THE first county planning committee meeting was held early in December. An outline of the data available was considered and the methods to be used in carrying it out in that particular county were discussed. At this first meeting two delegates were selected to attend the district conference held in January. At the nine district meetings the local county data assembled in the State office for each county and basic soils information necessary in the consideration of crop rotations and their relation to soil types were discussed, and definite plans outlined for the use of subcommittees on the various phases of the work in the county. More definite county plans of procedure were developed so that the work could proceed uniformly in all counties for the preliminary program recommendation made in March.

Following this meeting, the second county committee meeting is to be held in the near future to report on the district conference to the whole committee, to discuss the basic county data supplied by the State office to appoint subcommittees, and to plan for future community meetings.

This project in Iowa is utilizing the cooperation between the extension force, the experiment station, and the resident teaching staff which has been developed so successfully during the past few years. It is also serving to enlarge and strengthen the extension program by being combined with the outlook to which it is fundamentally related.

## Sound Use of Credit

(Continued from page 3)

by a parent, guardian, or other responsible adult, as comaker. A copy of the trustee agreement may be obtained from any production credit association.

All loans made by production credit associations under this plan to groups

of farm boys and girls to assist them in financing their projects are subject to the same terms and conditions that would affect loans made to their fathers except (a) the association may waive inspection fees and (b) the association may not require mortgages on the crops or livestock included in the project of the group.

Each group borrowing under this plan must purchase stock in the production credit association equal to \$5 for every \$100 or part of \$100 borrowed. If the leader of the group who is assisting the boys and girls to obtain the loan is an eligible borrower, the trustee agreement referred to need not be executed, but the signature of another financially responsible person as comaker on each member's note is required.

The leader or sponsor of the group provides a statement showing the purpose and plan of the group project and also the purpose and scope of the project of each member. If livestock are to be raised under the project, the leader or sponsor must show that he has inspected the animals to be purchased and that the purchase price is reasonable. If the loan is to be used to assist in financing the production of crops, the leader will state that he has inspected the facilities and approved them. He will also agree to supervise the efforts of each member of the group and see that the proceeds of sales are remitted to the association until the loan is repaid.

A brief glance at the rules of the future farmers in the Hemet chapter in California will show how business-minded groups protect their credit. According to one rule, if a borrower neglects to conduct his project in a business-like manner or disobeys the rules of the chapter, on demand of the chapter finance committee and supervisor he must turn over his project to the chapter for sale or completion.

Another rule says that the borrower must not allow any indebtedness to accumulate that will give some other party a claim to the proceeds of sale which is prior to the right of the borrower and the production credit association.

Taken altogether, the plan of the production credit associations provides not only for the sound financing of group projects of farm boys and girls but also a means of teaching the proper use of credit in a far more appealing way than a dozen textbook lectures.



# One for All—All for One

## Nevada County Backs Extension 100 Percent

**W**HEN County Agent Paul Maloney set foot in Humboldt County in 1925, he pulled the shades on his past—on his early life in Tennessee, on his college life at the University of Nevada, on his service overseas with the A. E. F.—and set about to modernize the second largest stock-raising county in Nevada and to be of actual service to the 105 ranchers who inhabited the 9,804 square miles of his district.

Today Maloney points with a good deal of pride to a total saving of \$160,000 in actual money which he has been enabled to keep in the pockets of farmers during the 8 years he has served as agent in the county. This saving was brought about by the application of rudimentary agricultural knowledge to the problems he encountered plus days and days of work in the fields side by side with the doubting ranchers who needed to have their faith in this young college fellow bolstered by sampling his wares firsthand on the farm.

No; the task of being a farm agent in this area of the West could not succeed by mere prescribing to the ills of the farm from a glass-topped desk in the county courthouse.

The ranchers in many instances took their ranches much as they came, and if the grasshoppers or the gophers got there first, that was no different than it was when the first settlers fenced off the land. Gophers and grasshoppers come and go, and the possibility of doing something about either one of them had perhaps never occurred to these livestock raisers. The smut on their wheat also was incidental, and the fact that yields per acre were small was something to be accepted because, after all,

**The inspiring story behind the extension achievements of County Agent Paul Maloney, of Humboldt County, Nev., as told by Warren L. Monroe, editor of the Humboldt Star.**

wheat growing in a desert area is difficult at best.

Today if a grasshopper eyes an alfalfa field in Paradise Valley, the county's principal agricultural district, with a view to settling down for the summer, the farmer's first thought is the telephone and Agent Maloney in Winnemucca, and before many an hour has passed a poison barrage has been laid down which changes Mr. Grasshopper's mind about his summer residence.

Maloney was visiting the ranchers in Paradise Valley during his first summer on the job. Wheat was being harvested, and it was bad to look upon, being black with smut. The agent suggested that they take a sample sack to a nearby miller for his opinion as to the quality of the grain. The miller refused to consider milling it.

The ranchers had been dipping their wheat seed in bluestone solution as a treatment for smut, but this was not proving effective. Maloney got one of the growers to agree to dust the seed with copper carbonate, and in the spring of 1926 a dusting machine was built by Maloney and several of the growers. Thirty-one tons of seed were dusted at 16 different ranches, and check plots were planted with the dusted seed in one plot and the old-fashioned dipped seed in the other plot. The results convinced the planters of their error, and, as a result, planting of wheat seed has now been reduced from 90 pounds per

acre to 60. On 2,500 acres regularly planted to wheat this means a saving of 75,000 pounds of seed per planting.

Then, too, Maloney found that the wheat seed was not certified or graded and that one field would contain as many as four different varieties of wheat growing and maturing at different times and different heights, all of which made harvesting difficult and resulted in waste. By adoption of certified seed and testing for the most suitable variety, Maloney was enabled to bring about a 100-percent change in the wheat-growing practices in the county, benefiting growers by approximately \$55,000.

One year the ranchers noticed that their alfalfa was not growing, despite the application of sunshine and water. The farm agent was called and investigated this strange circumstance. He found that cutworms were at the seat of the trouble, and recommended a mixture of arsenic, bran, and molasses. Joining with the farmers in the field, he spread his simple cure over the suffering plots, and soon the worms were gone and the alfalfa was saved.

One day it would be bugs in the garden and the next poor potato seed. Or perhaps the drought had left the cattle growers without feed either in the field or on the range. One summer, after several years of drought, the gophers became so bad that poisoning was found necessary. Aid of the United States

*(Continued on page 13)*





## Rural Virginia Negro Communities Work to Make Their Home Town

### A Good Place to Live

**T**WENTY-SEVEN Negro communities in Virginia have been competing for honors in the State community-improvement contest. Only one community in each county was eligible to enter this contest, and the community was officially scored at the beginning of the contest and at the end under the direction of the Negro State advisory board sponsoring the contest. This board, composed of one man and one woman representing the county advisory boards, together with the agent from each of the counties in Virginia employing extension agents, has been sponsoring the State extension program for the last 10 years. A year ago, at their ninth annual meeting, it was decided to inaugurate an annual community-improvement contest in the 33 counties represented, and the rules were carefully drawn up with the needs of the Negro community in mind.

The points on which the contesting communities strove to bring up their score were the number of farm owners, the houses painted, sanitary toilets installed, and boys and girls in school and in 4-H clubs. The summary of the total scores showed that 42 houses had been painted, 90 sanitary toilets built, 4-H club enrollment had increased by 297, and 181 additional children of school age were in school. The 10 highest scoring communities received prizes ranging from \$12 to \$3, all of which money is being used for community improvement.

Holly Bush community in Surry County made the highest score by piling up an enviable record in getting practically every child of school age into school and doubling their 4-H club enrollment. At the beginning of the contest the record showed 57 children of school age with only 26 in school, while the final score revealed that 56 children were attending school and the 4-H club enrollment had jumped from 24 to 40. W. H. George, Negro county agent in Surry County, thus tells how they did it:

"First, we took the matter up for discussion at the regular community club meeting. This was held at the close of the F. E. R. A. adult night school, which had just opened. It just happened that the superintendent of schools in the county planned to drop in to visit the night-school class that night, but when

he reached Holly Bush the night school was over and the community club in session. I had just put the community contest program on the blackboard when he walked into the room. He became interested in our contest and sent the supervisor of schools into the community to do special work in encouraging the parents to send their children to school.



The attractive home of T. L. G. Walden, president of the Negro State advisory board, serves as an example of a beautiful and convenient home.

A committee of three persons was appointed to encourage school attendance. I visited the church and Sunday school, telling the people the importance of sending their children to school. When the final results were checked 56 of the 57 children of school age were in school.

Another community which made an unusual record was Coleman Falls, Bedford County, which specialized in paint. During the contest 2 homes were painted for the first time, 6 homes were repainted, and the church and school glistened with a new coat of paint. Mrs. Youtha B. Flagg, Negro home demonstration agent, reports the plan of action:

"In May one woman stated 'My husband has bought the paint for our home and is going to do the work himself.' After this house was painted, other

club members again consulted their husbands and sons about painting.

"Mrs. Mary Brown, an elderly club member, told her son the Coleman Falls community had entered the contest, and the only thing they needed to do to help bring up the score was to paint the house. She asked him to paint it for her. He replied that he had not planned to paint it this year and to wait until later. She told him she would give him \$10 of the money she had earned selling vegetables at the curb market in Lynchburg to help buy the paint, and if he would not paint it, she would white-wash it. Seeing that she was determined to do her part in the contest, he painted it.

"Much of the paint that was used in this campaign was bought by club women who sell vegetables, chickens, butter, eggs, and wild flowers at the curb market in Lynchburg. The painting was done cooperatively, one helping the other, and only one home was painted from a Government loan.

"Some of the houses in Coleman Falls community are located on the highway and others on the sides of the mountains where they can be seen from the highway, so the painting has made a great improvement.

"Interest has been so thoroughly aroused that the home-demonstration club members say that they are going to continue this work until Coleman Falls community has a perfect score."

Each of the 27 communities made some improvement, and there are many interesting stories of their accomplishments. The Negro State advisory board plans to make it an annual affair. The 10 communities winning prizes this year will be automatically ineligible to compete again until all counties have won prizes.

**F**ARMERS in North Dakota who have managed their farm woodlots are reaping a just reward for their labors. During 1934 they sold more than \$166,000 worth of timber—a nice addition to the farm cash income. Not only is there a ready sale for fuel wood, but the market is open for fence posts and rough lumber.



# My Point of View

## Education, Not Marked "Rush"

The process of education is a slow one. It moves so slowly that if the observer watches for only a short time scarcely any progress can be seen. But to look back over the years and see the advancement made along certain important lines that can be traced directly to the efforts of extension workers is indeed gratifying.

Half-and-half used to be the predominating variety of cotton grown in this county. Now, I wouldn't know where to go in Dallas County to find a man who is growing half-and-half cotton. Improved strains of Rowden and Delta and Pine Land cotton predominate now. The ginner at Sparkman tells me that more than 80 percent of the cotton ginned at his gin is of the Arkansas Rowden 40 variety. The Sparkman gin handles practically half of the cotton grown in the county. This same ginner advises me that he has a car of pure Arkansas Rowden 40 booked for delivery this next spring. Our experiment station plant breeders can develop improved varieties of cotton, and we as county agents can recommend them and acquaint the farmers with the advantages of using only good seed, but the value of a concern that will provide the seed at reasonable profit and make it readily available to the farmer can hardly be overestimated. The value of the change to improved varieties of cotton has been estimated to add from \$15,000 to \$25,000 a year to the cotton income of this county.—*H. K. Sager, county agricultural agent, Dallas County, Ark.*

\* \* \*

## Proud of Community

Nineteen hundred and thirty-five was the fifth and last year in the State home-grounds improvement contest for Cypert.

During this year the most noticeable improvement in the community was the new coat of paint that most of the buildings were wearing. The home of Arch Henderson changed its dress from brown to gleaming white, and with a new green roof it hardly looks like the same place.

Across the road from it the Jackson & Woods store building was equally proud of exchanging its old coat of barn paint for a new one of light pearl gray.

Next to the store the homes of Mrs. George Woods and Mrs. L. A. Jackson, and on either side of the Henderson house the homes of Mrs. W. E. Jackson and Mr. Bob Henderson had new white paint. It certainly made a spick-and-span-looking place. Nearly every house in the community boasted some new paint.

Down the road a way is the place now occupied by the Milton Stewarts. This house was completely transformed. A new porch was built, the house straightened, and the many plants in the yard moved around the base of the house and to one side. A ramshackle old barn was torn down and a new one built farther back on the lot. What was once a run-down tenant house was changed into an attractive home.

Good habits as well as bad ones are not easily broken, so this year the community has continued with this work as a sort of postgraduate course. Seventy-five houses have been improved, 33 whitewashed, and 15 outhouses moved to better locations. Four yards were sodded, 150 trees and 65 shrubs set out, and 25 cutting beds established.

This contest has been of immense value as a means of increasing community pride and cooperation.

It also has meant much to me in contacting people who might not have been reached through other channels.—*Martha Ruth Mayo, home demonstration agent, Phillips County, Ark.*

\* \* \*

## Hitched to a Star



One is sometimes appalled at the extent of the field of extension teaching. Our fancies build a realm where rural citizens seize upon the ideas and plans advanced to construct a Utopia of co-operatively minded communities composed of well-planned farms. Although this does not come to pass overnight, each succeeding year erects a milepost that spurs us on toward our goal, a goal that challenges fancy and leaves in our wake some better homes and some better farms.—*Donald W. Ingle, county agricultural agent, Reno County, Kans.*

## Demonstrations Stimulate

I have just recently spent several days checking the yields in the 5-acre cotton demonstrations. When I had an opportunity to assimilate the facts gleaned from observations and contacts with my farmer friends, there were several things which strengthened my belief in extension work. Although we county extension workers do offer suggestions and submit ideas, yet the real success of the project depends on the farmers and their families.

Several years ago very little thought was given to staple length of cotton by either the producer or the buyer. These 5-acre demonstrations were started with the primary view of improving staple lengths. Now it is a common thing to hear the farmer demand his premium for his extra staple. The buyer is forced to recognize these staple qualities in order to meet a very keen competition that has been developing each year.

The above very evident facts are the outgrowth of these demonstrations, which not only improved the staple length of the cotton in our county but the yield as well. Yet these improvements have been due to the self-interest of the farmers and to the stimulation offered by local leaders—demonstrator farmers.—*F. M. Rast, county agricultural agent, Clarendon County, S. C.*

\* \* \*

## Leadership Pays Dividends

Local leadership has ceased to be a general problem in our county. Leaders serve willingly in the home-management groups, and in many cases there are members who want to be leaders and are disappointed if not elected. They feel that they get much more from lessons when acting as leaders and have more contacts with other leaders.

One of the leaders in Sleepy Eye who has a large family, extra boarders, and outside activities said, following the first lesson, that it meant very careful planning of her work to be leader; but she thought that she owed it to herself as a homemaker to attend the leader meetings which were well worth the extra work that she had to do to leave her family.—*Josephine F. Burkett, home demonstration agent, Brown County, Minn.*



Consumer problems are, after all,  
old problems in a new guise.

**N**EVER has the Extension Service faced a new year with greater opportunity to serve the farm family—opportunity accompanied by great responsibility to know what our program is and to work for it with a singleness of purpose.

The Bankhead-Jones Act made immediately available for extension work \$8,000,000, which will permit in the neighborhood of 1,250 new workers in addition to providing for those previously employed on A. A. A. funds. During the last fiscal year county appropriations increased more than \$300,000, and appropriations from farmers' organizations about \$200,000. These funds, together with funds contributed by the A. A. A., made possible an increase in the number of agents during the last year of about 1,300. All of these things bear witness to the fundamental growth of the Extension Service.

But the job ahead of us is not easy, even with this additional help. Work must be reorganized so that the administrative phases of emergency activities take up less of the county agent's time and energy. The emergency and regular activities, must be worked into a unified program. In this way they can best support extension, and extension can be most helpful to them. Farm credit, soil conservation, rural rehabilitation, rural electrification, all of them offer a service of vital interest to farm families and belong in an extension program. These organizations have much to contribute to rural life, and gradually a workable program of cooperation is being evolved.

One of the major extension problems during the coming year will be to develop programs of interest and benefit to young men and women on the farm who especially need our help during this period of adjustment. Our obligation to work for a better standard of living for the farm family and to train boys and girls in 4-H clubs must be taken into account in any extension pro-



## Take a New Lease On Some Old Activities

G. W. WARBURTON

Director of Extension Work

gram. Abundant living in better homes, with suitable food, modern conveniences, wholesome recreation, and social opportunities are just as much our problem as adjusted agriculture, efficient marketing, soil conservation, and farm management.

The county-program planning in which the Extension Service is co-operating promises to be of great assistance in the evolution of a unified agricultural program. It is the responsibility and the opportunity of every extension agent to evaluate all the work carried on in his territory under the extension program and to push with energy those things which best further the interests of the farm people.



Father-and-son partnerships help to solve the problem of older boys on the farm.



Skill in planning the year's food supply interests older girls.

The community clubhouse brings together all community activities.

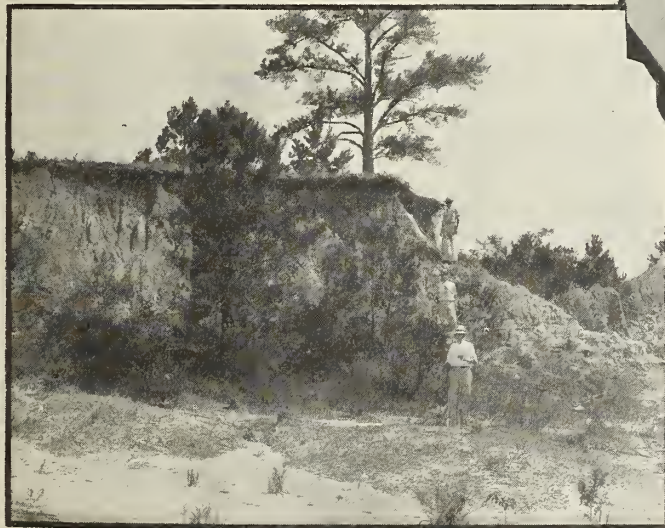
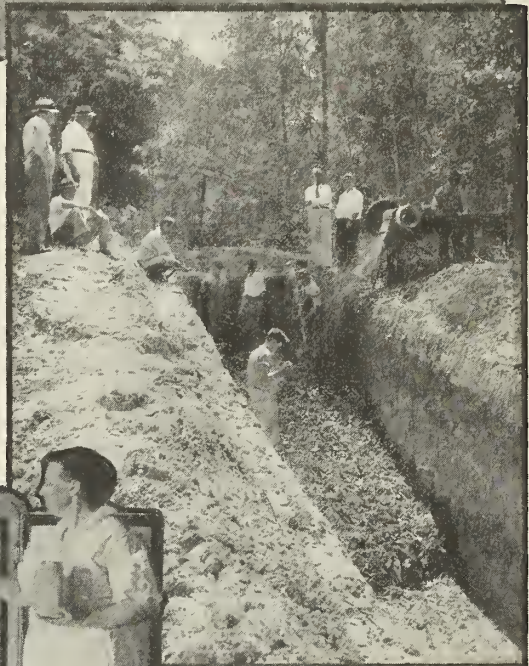


Simple preventive measures in child care produce big dividends.

The standard of living calls for power, light, and all modern home conveniences.



Cutting the cost of production with home-grown feed raises the farm income.



Soil conservation brings up terracing, farm forestry, and farm management.



Abundant living calls for joy in play and work.



# On the Threshold of a New Year

## A Brief Look Back Shows Promising Future

### A Successful Year



Organization of effort in the administration of the Agricultural Adjustment Act, which enabled county agents to devote a greater portion of their time to demonstration and 4-H club activities, featured extension work in Georgia in 1935.

Among the projects which were initiated in recent years and which have been expanded in 1935 are the one-variety plan of cotton production which is now functioning in 108 communities in 52 counties, erection and supervision of community canning plants in practically every county in the State, and the organization of soil-conservation associations in 35 counties which was accompanied by the purchase of power terracing outfits to control erosion in each county.

The Extension Service is happy to have had a part in carrying out a program which has raised the income of the farmers of the State from \$67,000,000 in 1932 to approximately \$200,000,000 in 1935, and at the same time taken the leadership in movements which promise to permanently improve agricultural conditions in the State.—*H. L. Brown, Director of Extension, Georgia.*

### Interest in Economics



Each crop-adjustment program has resulted in many practical problems for those participating in it and has greatly increased the demands for virtually all phases of extension work. It is not possible to measure the effect of this type of work definitely and to state its progress in tangible terms. Those who come in contact with farm people throughout the State cannot fail to observe the greater interest in the business and economic phases of the industry, the more general understanding of the economic conditions and trends, together with what they imply, and a much larger percentage of farmers giving careful attention

Extension directors from every part of the country have expressed hope in the future and pride in past accomplishments, as these representative excerpts from reports on the year's extension work will show.

to planning their operations in accordance with basic factors involved.

We are now measuring the results of the 5-year agricultural program that has been in operation since 1931 and making plans for the long-time program resulting from a careful study of the county resources. We are also promoting the discussion forums in the State.—*T. B. Symons, Director of Extension, Maryland.*

### Better Support



Probably the most satisfying work in extension is the fact that a stronger support is being manifested from the farmers, the homemakers, and those in charge of agricultural industries toward the benefits of extension work. The farmers of the State are becoming thoroughly reconciled to controlled agriculture, and there is the common expression that the future program will include crop-production control.

In general, the extension workers are looked upon with more dependability and are recognized in authority in the new problems which arise in agriculture.

A direct demand has come from the dairymen, fruit growers, and wool growers of the State that the amount of help given by specialists of the Extension Service be expanded. This means that the work is not only being recognized, but it is of such a standing that the men who are concerned want an increase in the Service. In general, when the word has been released that more money might be expended for extension work, the demand for the increased personnel has come from recipients of the benefits of such expenditure rather than from a campaign among the people by extension officials.—*William Peterson, Director of Extension, Utah.*

### Understanding



THE YEAR 1935 has been characterized by a better understanding by farmers of the aims and purposes of the Agricultural Adjustment Act. There is no question that there is growing farmer interest and growing farmer participation.

In the State of North Dakota, which suffered a severe drought in 1934 and a blighting devastation of black stem rust in 1935, the value of the crop-insurance feature of the Agricultural Adjustment Act has been an outstanding asset of the program. The Agricultural Adjustment Act, through its operation in this State, has increased farmers' purchasing power. Through the increase in farmers' purchasing power and the general increase in income which has come with the attendant rise in prices, farmers of North Dakota, long-time settlers in the State, and their sons and daughters, are being enabled to remain in the State.

As farmers better understand the various adjustment programs, they are beginning to appreciate that through management of their acres they can make the resulting product a price factor. From the educational point of view, the demonstrated value of cooperative effort is without parallel in the history of farmer movements in this country. Farmers' thinking is becoming more international. They now think in terms of world economics instead of in merely the terms of local or State economics or even just national economics. The world market and world conditions are being brought to the hearthside of the individual producer.

The year has been characterized by a wider use of community committeemen



in the handling of the several referendums and in the handling of the educational program incident to the establishment of new programs. The agricultural leadership which is being developed in this way will, in the long run, constitute extension's greatest contribution to the A. A. A. program.

The year 1935 has witnessed an increasing transfer of responsibility from the extension service to the allotment committees and community committees. This increasing transfer of responsibilities has made it possible to devote time to greater emphasis upon regular and new extension programs. It has been found possible to reduce the number of State-wide supervisors from 5 to 4, thus restoring the full-time services of an extension poultryman.—*H. L. Walster, Director of Extension, North Dakota.*

## New Avenues



The county-agent program has had to do largely with agricultural adjustment and other so-called "emergency programs." In spite of preoccupation with these lines of work, however, there has been a very satisfactory volume of achievement with projects that classify in the educational field. National crop and livestock adjustment, rural housing, and farm credit have been getting the major share of public attention. There have been some quite distinctive advantages from the new undertakings, since agents have been able to work with farmers with whom they have heretofore had little contact.

There have been new avenues of approach for exerting helpful influence upon farm procedure, and the adjustment programs have had a significant result in getting farmers interested in related problems, such as soils, crop rotation, and animal feeding. The so-called "lines of work" that have received most attention from the county-agent staff during the year have been the following: Rodent and pest control; co-operative marketing of wool, lambs, swine, and poultry; community and county fair educational displays; agricultural economics, including outlook; and soils and crops. One of the most promising features of agricultural adjustment responsibility, aside from increased returns to farmers, has been the very great progress in the development of farm leadership. From the county allotment and community committees there has been developed a type of leadership which, if properly directed and

utilized, should be of unlimited value in years to come.—*E. J. Iddings, Director of Extension, Idaho.*

## Opportunity



When farm prices are improving there is an extra premium on keeping production costs as low as possible, raising the highest quality of farm products, marketing them most efficiently, and investing the returns most wisely. Such has been the case in Illinois during the past year. No matter what level farm prices reach, they will never support the farmer and his family on the plane of the highest possible standard of living unless his production and marketing methods are the most efficient and his expenditures are wisely planned.

Accordingly, the main effort of the Illinois Extension Service during the past year has been directed along such lines as the adjustment of farming and rural living to the changing national and world conditions; conservation and improvement of soil fertility, bettering the quality of farm products; reducing losses from insects, diseases, and weeds; lowering the costs of production wherever possible through more efficient farm management; and the development of rural leadership.—*H. W. Mumford, Director of Extension, Illinois.*

## Two Wisconsin Projects



A project to which we have given major attention during the year just closed is that of "county zoning." Twenty-three counties of this State have passed zoning ordinances. Thus, 5,200,000 acres of land, or 15 percent of the entire acreage of the State, has been definitely closed to future agricultural settlement until such time as economic conditions warrant lifting some of these restrictions. Wisconsin has, by the enactment of these ordinances, taken a very advanced position in the problems of land utilization. The zoning ordinances officially determine the use of the restricted lands. Land that is suited to agriculture is left in the unrestricted area, while land more suitable for forests (or for recreation) has been definitely set aside in Federal, State, county, school, and private forests.

Wisconsin has developed a plan of giving smaller farmers in the undeveloped sections of the State assistance in the clearing and development of their land

through the Resettlement Administration. Farms generally, throughout the North, are too small to afford an adequate living. While the woodworking industries persisted, the opportunity of earning extra money in the woods helped these farmers to maintain themselves. But the disappearance of these industries simultaneous with the depression left whole communities stranded and without adequate cleared land to maintain themselves. While only a beginning has been made with this land-clearing project, it holds for these stranded people a large and possibly the only hope of individual self-sustenance.—*K. L. Hatch, Associate Director of Extension, Wisconsin.*

## Problems



In 1934 many changes were made in the personnel of our county agent force. This was due in part to other organizations using experienced men from among the county agents and partly due to inability of the extension service to pay as large salaries as other organizations, or as large as have been paid by the extension service in the past. During 1935 many more changes have occurred for the same general reasons. Rural Rehabilitation and the Soil Conservation Service have taken most of the men who left the extension service, although the Indian Service and the Forest Service have each taken some of the men.

With the return of normal rainfall in most sections of the State, the production of food for home use and replenishing the supplies of feed for livestock have marked the most important agricultural change in the State during the past year. Much effort has also been devoted to replenishing supplies of seeds through cooperation with the New Mexico Crop Improvement Association.

The outstanding accomplishment in soils work has been the contour listing and terracing of many thousands of acres of wind-blown lands of eastern New Mexico. Through the F. E. R. A. farmers were furnished gas and oil for tractors or feed for teams to list land for erosion control. The F. E. R. A. also furnished engineers to run contour lines on the fields to be listed, and each farmer receiving the help agreed to contour list. Every community in the dry-land area has a few examples of contour listing and the results of that method of soil and moisture conservation.—*E. C. Hollinger, Assistant Director of Extension, New Mexico.*



# Plans to Replace Trees . . .

## Killed by Drought

THE UNPRECEDENTED drought of the past several years has proved most disastrous to farm wood lots and shelter belts in western and central Minnesota counties. Reports indicate that 40 to 90 percent of the wood lots and shelter belts were killed by the drought in that part of the State. Many of the trees involved are short-lived trees that even without the drought would not have survived much longer. Farmers are very much concerned over the situation, and county agents report a flood of inquiries, indicating the great interest on the part of farm people in establishing adequate wood lots and shelter belts.

About 20 counties are severely affected by the loss of trees. The dry seasons have made it difficult to get new trees established. However, the limiting factor is the obtaining of trees at a cost within the reach of the average farmer. To meet this situation a project has been organized under which farmers grow their own trees. In each of 20 counties organization has been effected through a county-wide meeting composed of three or four farmer delegates from each township. A definite plan for meeting the problem is presented and discussed and a schedule made for holding township meetings. At the township meetings helpful material in connection with shelter belts is presented and careful attention given to the best practice for growing trees through the use of cuttings and seed, which are available in practically all farming communities. The interest of 4-H club members has been obtained. Many members in a number of counties have gathered seed, particularly from elm and ash trees, and have established home nurseries. Several counties have purchased seed cooperatively for use in connection with the local windbreak project.

Plans are under way for establishing county tree nurseries, and a State-wide project has been requested through the State W. P. A., which would provide ample trees for the replacing of farm windbreaks and shelter belts at a nominal cost. The feasibility of such a project has been demonstrated by one rural-rehabilitation nursery established last spring where half a million trees were produced. These were offered to counties at the rate of \$10 per thousand and im-

mediately taken by the 20 drought counties most badly affected.

By dividing the procedure into steps, presenting the most simple practices, and making it easy for farmers to obtain trees, very satisfactory results should be brought about during a vigorous prosecution of the project during the year.

## What Do Farmers Want?

(Continued from page 1)

provide leisure time so much needed on the farm.

### Better Organization Desirable

Farmers are too scattered. There is too much variation of commodities raised. Farmers don't read as they should. They lack belief in organization, and it is difficult to overcome rugged individualism and custom. Farmers can't agree. There is too much politics. Too many have the "let George do it" attitude. Ignorance, stubbornness, opposition raised in others, selfishness, lack of finances, the need for more members in present farm organizations, the desire of some to have leadership or not to take part at all, the fear of added responsibility on the part of others, the lack of interest on the part of members, the ever-present knockers, the lack of fellowship, the lack of faith in organization, the lack of understanding, fees for organizations seem too high, the lack of realization of benefits of organization—these were among the most numerous obstacles reported. Considering them, it is small wonder how present farm organizations function as effectively as they do. Here is a place where the Extension Service could help appreciably.

Reasons given for the lack of cooperation were lack of education, too much selfishness, lack of leadership, misinformation, lack of fellowship, lack of time, lack of understanding, people too well satisfied with conditions as they now are, and the lack of concern about the other fellow. It is evident that farmers consider social cooperation essential, as essential as economic cooperation, judging by the above.

What keeps farmers from having the kind of farms they want? Lack of fer-

tilizer, poor crops, lack of good seed, poor crop-rotation systems, lack of lime, lack of money, lack of education, and poor farm methods were only a few of the obstacles mentioned.

Subsequent to the holding of these discussion meetings in August and September, a county meeting of community leaders, representing 8 of the 14 units, was held for the purpose of whipping the above material into programs for meetings and for action in the unit.

Recognizing that if some of these needs were to be met, the farm people themselves would have to become active as a group in the community, committees on better roads in each of the eight units were set up. The duties of these committees were to take the reported obstacles and see what could be done to overcome them, report in community meetings, and actually develop a road program for the community, and, through the committees working together, for the county.

One of the chief things standing in the way of modern homes, it was recognized, was the lack of electric light and power; hence, the November meetings were to be given over to a discussion of the question of extending electricity to rural areas, committees being given a job of planning out all they could about the proposition and doing what they could to meet the situation. Seemingly insurmountable obstacles, such as too high rates, seeming lack of desire on the part of power companies to want rural business, and lack of purchasing power for equipment were to be given especially careful attention.

The young people, especially, requested that attention be given to the problem of providing shorter hours. They declared they wanted more time, more of the time of their mothers and fathers, especially during the summer months, so that they could have desirable social activities going on in their communities.

Finally it was recognized that the chief obstacle to having a good productive farm was poor soils. Hence, it was determined that specific attention should be given to soil conservation during the coming year by the setting up of committees in each unit to analyze the local situation, determine how much land had actually been tested for limestone, how available limestone could be made, and in other ways to attack the erosion and drainage problem. Thus, a number of the other problems brought up in the August and September meetings were attacked and made an integral part of the community unit program.



# Stadia Compliance Measurement

## Proves Accurate and Economical

**D**OWN in the Delta country of Mississippi they are using the stadia method of land measurement in determining the cotton acreage on the more level farms. This method has been used to measure 662,514.33 acres covered by 7,347 contracts in 7 counties. The average cost per acre by this method was 4.571 cents per acre. The accuracy of the method has been found to be within 1 percent by several check measurements.

Farmers at first were somewhat doubtful regarding the accuracy of the stadia method, and so a proposition was made. If the land checked when remeasured, within a 1-percent limit, the farmer had to pay the cost of remeasuring. However, if the check showed an error of more than 1 percent, the measuring crew had to pay for the remeasuring. There were two advantages in this method. It made the farmers more confident and helped to obtain the greatest possible care and accuracy from the measuring crews.

In five counties the land was measured by the chain method because of hilly land. The average cost of measuring 91,359.52 acres of this land, covered by 4,779 contracts, was 9.380 cents per acre as against 4.571 cents when measured by stadia. The cost of hilly land surveys cannot be directly compared with that of stadia measurement on the more level land. The cost was somewhat higher, due to smaller fields and uneven land. However, when it can be used, the stadia method was found to be more economical.

This method requires the services of licensed civil engineers or persons with civil engineering experience or college training. In this section of Mississippi the local cotton committee and the professor of civil engineering approved the men who were to do the work. A method of testing new measuring crews was devised. The new man would follow the approved engineer for one-half day, measuring the same acreage and working independently. If at the end of the day his figures and results checked with the approved measurements, he was qualified to do the work. "It was felt that this method was cheaper in the long run, rather than having careless and inaccurate data show up at a later date", says District Extension Agent C. C. Smith.

All the instruments and rods, as well as the work of the men, were checked at the university to assure their accuracy. On some large acreages, the man handling the rod rode to the corners of the field on horseback and greatly speeded up the work. In other cases a man was sent ahead to tell the next farmer that the crew would be there at a certain time so that horses and men would be ready.

"I think our measurements with stadia were very accurate in addition to being more economical. Indeed, in rechecking and measuring several areas the second set of data checked very closely with the original."

## One for All—All for One

(Continued from page 5)

Biological Survey was arranged for by Maloney, and, at the head of a crew of men, he spent 48 days in the field directing the work of eradicating the crop-destroying pests.

Everything that this hard-working extension man has set out to accomplish has not been brought about. For instance, there are the wild-hay farmers on the Humboldt River who, despite demonstration and argument, still persist in growing their wild hay on tracts of land ranging in size from 800 to 2,000 acres. More taxes, greater upkeep, and increased overhead make this practice wasteful.

One 60-acre demonstration crop of alfalfa, which Maloney planted for one of the doubting river ranchers 6 years ago, has survived the worst of the dry years which have visited the area since its planting and each year produces at least one good crop. More hay is raised on this 60 acres each year than is harvested from 200 acres of wild-hay land. Some years when a mowing machine is not moved on the big wild-hay ranches their owners look with envy upon the waving alfalfa on the tiny test plot. Why do they not plow up the sod of their wild-hay fields and plant alfalfa?

The primary reason is the fundamental slowness with which change is brought about in the western range

country. A secondary reason is that farming is a byproduct of the range, and a cowman hates the true agrarian arts worse than any of the necessary things a western livestock grower must do. If someone like Maloney will take the lead—go into his field and show him how to do it and then stick with him until it is done, the ranchers will consent to advancement.

Once Maloney had found out that secret, he advanced rapidly in popularity until, gradually, he has won over the principal farmers of the county.

Of course, there was more to it than that. There are always a thousand and one little things that a farm agent can do for his people, especially when many of them live from 40 to 100 miles from the railroad.

Then there is the advantage accruing to the ranchers from having an agent—their authorized representative—on duty at the county seat, obtaining Government relief when it is needed, interpreting their requirements under the Government's farm program, and, generally watching after their interests.

And, with all these things to do, Maloney still has found time to be an inventor.

As the practice of feeding cattle on grain in final preparation for marketing spread to the West, the need for dehorning of livestock became urgent. This work was unfamiliar to the Nevada range user, and some of the first efforts resulted in losses because the ranchers lacked proper equipment, primarily, dehorning chutes. Maloney supervised erection of several types of chutes, none of which was too satisfactory. Finally he set about to perfect an ideal chute which would not only combine a headstall in which it would be easy to secure the animal's head, but also would permit easy and safe release of the shorn bovine.

After several years the farm agent succeeded in building a perfect model of his chute. It combined a simple but effective headstall with a smooth working side gate.

Several of them have been placed in operation, and the ranchers say that they are a big advancement over anything used previously. In addition, losses from dehorning have been lessened by the care and caution made possible by the improved device.

Is it any wonder then that the farmers and ranchers of Humboldt County have rallied behind this western agent and are backing him to the limit, just as he backs and fights for them?





## Montana Off to Good Start in County Program Planning

THE PROGRAM worked out for county planning in Montana is making use of the wealth of material already available from an intensive effort toward land-use planning carried on since 1927, as well as all the other information at hand, in an effort to make the work as valuable as possible both from a national and a local viewpoint.

The State working committee is functioning under the leadership of Horace G. Bolster, land economist, who is also in charge of the program for the State. The Montana Experiment Station, Extension Service, Rural Resettlement Administration, and the United States Department of Agriculture are represented on the State working committee.

County committees, representative of various organizations within the county, were chosen by the county agent. Each county committee under the leadership of the county agent set up discussion groups in the various communities. The discussion group chose a discussion leader and appointed a committee of three to present their views at county economic meetings to be held later in the winter.

In launching the program, a 1-day conference was held with the county agents, Smith-Hughes teachers, and county committee to explain the plan and make any revision in the procedure in the county which seemed desirable. The data available to the local committees and discussion groups are based on economic facts which have been developed on a State-wide basis for about 10 years.

The deflation period immediately following the World War found Montana's agriculture greatly expanded. On much

of the area being cultivated production was low, inefficient production methods were being employed, and prices of agricultural commodities were out of line with the prices of nonagricultural commodities which the farmer had to purchase. The farm problem became acute. In attempting to find a solution to the problem, the Montana Experiment Station and Extension Service gathered together and published considerable factual material on Montana agriculture. This material was published in December 1926, in a bulletin entitled "Basic Facts About Montana's Agriculture." However, the situation demanded action which resulted in a series of economic conferences attended by 1,200 men and women. At these conferences leading farmers adopted recommendations setting forth an agricultural program for the State.

The present county program work is a continuation of those earlier projects, broadening and bringing the material up to date and altering and extending the program in the light of new facts and changing agricultural conditions. Much of the material needed has already been collected, and all that will be necessary to make it available for use is to have it assembled and analyzed. The project will be broad and comprehensive and will give consideration to all the basic factors affecting agriculture; the effect on production of production control, soil conservation, and farm-management practices; types of farming material, community pattern, cost and income data, land ownership, size and type of farms and ranches, and public and private indebtedness.

It is felt in Montana that this effort will create an opportunity for farmers

and others to understand better the basic problems relating to national agriculture and will clarify the relationship between the producer's problem on his own farm and national farm problems so as to disclose local responsibility for assisting in the development of broad national policies as well as for formulating and administering local programs. It will also obtain the judgment and suggestions of representative farmers and others on local, State, and National agricultural problems.

## Kansas Works on Pastures

Interest in pastures and pasture improvement has increased during the last 4 or 5 years. The drought of 1934 damaged and decreased the productivity of Kansas pastures to such an extent that the Kansas farmers realized more than ever before that good grazing land is essential to a sound, economical agriculture. The pasture extension program in 1935 included educational meetings, establishing demonstrations, conducting tours, and publicity over the radio and through the press of the State. Educational meetings were held in 55 eastern Kansas counties during 1935. At these meetings, the opportunity and feasibility of using land removed from grain production under the adjustment programs for pasture production was pointed out and emphasized. The different grasses and pasture legumes for mixtures were discussed at these meetings.

During the spring of 1935, reseeding demonstrations were established in 55 eastern counties. During the summer, weed-control and eradication demonstrations were established in the counties. In the fall, seeding demonstrations were established and the seeding of new pastures encouraged. During May and June, pasture demonstration tours were held in 15 counties with an estimated total attendance of 2,000.

Farmers of eastern Kansas responded to the pasture program by reseeding pastures, mowing pastures to control weeds and brush, and by seeding to pasture the crop land taken out of production under the agricultural adjustment program. One county reports 25 fields seeded to brome grass and another county, 18. One county reports 11 fields seeded to pasture mixtures, one 8, and another 6. One county reports 75 farmers mowing pastures to control weeds, and other counties report several farmers following this practice.



# He Learned from the Drought

## Study of Old Records by Wisconsin Agent Eases Task Ahead

**O**LD drought-relief records contained information which formed a basis for valuable study of the economic situation of a large number of farms in Oneida County, Wis. The work was begun on drought-relief funds, but when they failed I continued the study and felt that the time was well spent, as the study suggested a possible approach to the solution of our farm problems.

### *Farm Debt Situation*

**T**HE PRESENT farm debts in Oneida County, as indicated by the records, are among the most serious drawbacks to the recovery of agriculture. During the past years farm debts have increased considerably. In many cases the debt per acre of cleared land is beyond a point at which the returns of the land will be sufficient to pay the costs of the farm operation, retirement of the debt, and still provide a living and keeping of our present-day standards. Farms with small cleared acreages and dairy farms seem most likely to have the larger debts. The mortgage indebtedness of the farms included in this study that were on drought relief for 2 years was \$1,854.90 per farm, or \$43.60 per cleared acre. Debts of \$100 to \$150 per cleared acre are not uncommon. One of our applicants had a total debt of \$1,355 and a cleared-acre indebtedness of \$44.26. These figures were large when considered in view of the decline of land values.

It should be remembered that these figures are based on drought-relief applicants and, therefore, may show the situation somewhat worse than it actually is; yet, when we consider that practically one-half of the farmers received drought relief, these figures are really significant.

Mortgage indebtedness has increased during the last 10 years, as this county has developed a great deal during this period. It is not surprising that this very situation during the depression has helped to make the position of the farmer very difficult. In most cases, the

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**Is it a far cry from a dusty record to a potentially dry farm? County Agent H. L. Becker of Oneida County, Wis., did not find it so. What he discovered from his drought-relief records will be of vital concern to many farmers in his county. This statement was taken from his annual report for 1935.**

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most enterprising farmers have been the hardest hit. Where farmers purchased their farms before 1925 the mortgage indebtedness on the farms studied rose from \$99,932 to \$147,730. Where farms were purchased after 1925 the indebtedness has remained practically the same.

### *Size of Farm*

**T**HE average number of acres of cleared land per farm in Oneida County is approximately 35 acres. Farms on drought relief averaged about 34 acres of cleared land. Seventy-six percent of the drought relief was on farms with less than 60 acres of cleared land, but 3 farmers with more than 100 acres of cleared land received such aid. About 50 percent of the farms had less than 4 cows, and 83 percent had less than 8 cows. The relatively large number of very small farms may be accounted for in part by the influx of unemployed who wished to live close to the land while weathering the depression.

The poultry industry was not well developed on the farms of drought-relief applicants. Some of the farms kept no poultry at all, and yet last year poultry gave the largest returns above the cost of purchased feed of any class of livestock. About 70 percent kept poultry for their own use only, and 22 percent kept commercial flocks. Practically all commercial flock owners reported last year that it was the only thing that kept their farms going.

Overstocking with livestock was very common. There was about one head of livestock to every 3½ acres of land on the farms of drought-relief applicants. Even under normal climatic conditions this is overstocking.

While the average income of farms was low, yet as a rule those with diversified farm business fared better in the last 2 years than others. The best income group consisted of those who received about one-half of their income from dairy and poultry products.

### *Farm Income*

**I**NCREASING the farm income may be one solution to the debt problem. Such increases should result from the improvement in the economic situation which seems apparent at the present time.

Improvement in land values might be a possible solution in handling those farms which have debts in the lower brackets. With those farms where the debts are hopelessly out of line with the present income-producing value of the land, possibly the best solution for both parties concerned may be to let the land go, to repurchase cheaper farms, or to adjust the debt.

Increased acreage of cleared land per farm is required. Whereas there may be some question about this under the present circumstances, yet the fact remains that unless outside employment is possible, the number of tillable acres per farm must be expanded to make it a full-time family job.

Many of our farms are overstocked and yet the herds are not always of efficient size. The reduction of the amount of livestock on these farms to a point to which the farm can provide all the feed, and then keeping a better grade of livestock, may increase the income considerably.

Greater diversity is recommended. Through the growing of legumes with the aid of the liming program, a larger proportion of feed required for dairy herds can be grown and possibly the quality and yield of potatoes could be increased, even though the acreage is reduced. Commercial size poultry flocks might provide for the living on some of the farms.

The study has given us much helpful information on the economic situation in Oneida County, which was well worth the trouble of compiling it.



## IN BRIEF . . . . .

### Sweetening

Wisconsin farmers put nearly a million tons of lime, marl, and sludge on their farms last year. This improvement alone resulted in close to the objective of "a million acres of alfalfa for Wisconsin." A similar program is authorized for the current year, and the work is well under way.

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### A Seed Emergency

The drought left North Dakota terribly deficient in seed supplies. Consequently, an organized program, in cooperation with the seed stocks committee of the United States Department of Agriculture, was undertaken under the leadership of a special agent. Seed orders were taken through county agents from more than 33,000 farmers for more than 5,000,000 bushels of wheat, oats, barley, and flax. Nearly 600 meetings were held, with a total attendance of more than 43,000 persons. Special emphasis was laid upon treating this new seed with fungicide, and 52 large-scale seed treaters were installed by elevators handling the seed in 25 counties. Three hundred and forty-two elevator managers attended a series of six meetings sponsored by the seed stocks committee.

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### Leather Craft

Hide-tanning demonstrations and leather schools have been held in 50 counties in Texas and attended by representatives from approximately 150 counties. As a result of these demonstrations several hundred men have prepared harnesses, rugs, and other articles from home-tanned leather. One farmer in Harris County has in the past year tanned more than 60 hides, and one farmer in Newton County, originally on relief, has financed nearly all of this year's crop with the proceeds from tanning.

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### Sticking to It

Farm boys and girls are remaining in 4-H club work for longer periods of time, according to a recent analysis of the annual report data. In 1931 the average length of enrollment for boys and girls was 2.1 years, and in 1934 it was 2.4 years. The average tenure of membership of all the boys and girls who discontinued 4-H club work dur-

ing the 4-year period, 1931-34, was 2.2 years. One of the chief factors in the length of club membership was early age enrollment, the younger the age of enrolling, the longer the period of active club membership. Other important factors were the educational training and group activities of the parents. The percentage of boys and girls remaining in 4-H clubs 4 years or longer has also increased. In 1930 only 12.9 percent of the boys had been enrolled for more than 4 years; this increased to 20.3 percent in 1934. At the same time 12.1 percent of the girls had completed 4 years or more of club work in 1930, and in 1934 the percentage had increased to 17.6.

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### Ex Club Members

The older sheep club members in four counties in Utah are in the sheep-breeding business with well-established farm flocks of purebred ewes. One ex club member exhibited the champion Hampshire ram at the 1935 Utah State Fair.

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### Records

The Massachusetts inventory campaign interested many farmers in farm records. Seventy-five meetings were held with a total of 1,265 farmers from every county in the State taking part. Twenty-three banks, 4 national farm-loan associations, and 3 of the 4 production credit association secretaries in Massachusetts cooperated. Fourteen vocational agricultural teachers helped by explaining the farm inventory to farmers and instructing them in its use.

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### More Locusts

Mississippi black locust demonstration plantings were established in 30 counties last year, with 600,000 seedlings set out by cooperating farmers for production of fence posts and for gully control.

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### Scholarships

Texas county home-demonstration councils provided about 300 scholarships for 4-H girls and 600 scholarships for home-demonstration club women to the farmers' short course held at the Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College last summer. In addition, the State Home Demonstration Association provided one \$300 college scholarship for a 4-H girl.

## AMONG OURSELVES

The Federal Compensation Commission has allowed the maximum benefit in the claim of Mrs. W. A. Geiger, her daughter, and son. William A. Geiger was formerly county agent in Benton County, Iowa. He was instantly killed in an automobile accident March 16, 1935, while returning to his office from a neighboring county where he had inspected some clover and alfalfa seed which the farmers of his county were expecting to buy. The trip was authorized by the county extension organization and was a part of his regular duties as county agent.

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Lorin T. Oldroyd has been appointed director of extension work in Alaska, filling the position made vacant by the resignation of Ross L. Sheely who, since July 1, has been with the Matanuska Valley settlement project. Mr. Oldroyd began his extension work as county agent in Utah in 1918, and from 1919 to 1928 filled a similar position in Pierce County, Wash., and in Wyoming. In 1928 he was made commissioner of agriculture for Wyoming, serving in that capacity for 5 years. Mr. Oldroyd has spent the last 2 years as manager of a large ranch in Jackson County, Wyo. After spending a week in Washington, D. C., Mr. Oldroyd left for Alaska on December 1.

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Miss Marjorie Luce, home demonstration leader in Vermont, has been granted a year's leave of absence to serve as home-economics regional supervisor for the Rural Resettlement Administration with headquarters at New Haven, Conn. Her territory will be the 11 Northeastern States. Lillian Anderson, specialist in nutrition and clothing, will take over the duties of State home demonstration leader during Miss Luce's absence.

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Bessie M. Hodsdon, who for the last 15 years has served as assistant poultry specialist in Virginia and before that as home demonstration agent, died July 10 at her home, near Chuckatuck, Isle of Wight County, Va.



# Secretary Wallace Reassures the Farmer

**FARM WELFARE MUST BE PRESERVED** All fair-minded men know that farm welfare must be preserved.

Only a small minority of the thoughtless hailed the recent Supreme Court decision as meaning that the Federal Government no longer can be concerned with the economic welfare of agriculture in the United States. . . . The Government of the Nation does have a profound concern with the welfare of agriculture. The national welfare is identical with the welfare of the great economic groups which comprise the whole people. . . . It is up to all who are constructively minded to push forward in the name of agricultural unity for the sake of national unity in the long run. On March 10, 1933, it was reasonably easy to get a unanimity of farm opinion because of the magnitude of the calamity which then was upon us. The urge of 15-cent corn, 30-cent wheat, \$2 hogs, 6-cent cotton, thousands of foreclosures, and farm holiday violence propelled us toward quick and united action. Within a few days the farm bill was introduced in Congress and by May 12 it had become a law.

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**FARM SITUATION IMPROVED UNDER AAA** Today there is on the face of it not the same urge for unanimity that there was in March 1933. The farm picture has changed for the better. Farm income for the crop year ending next July 1 will be about 55 percent greater than in the period ending July 1, 1933. This increase from 5 billion to 8 billion dollars has meant a sharp upturn in the standard of living from the low levels of 1932 for every section of agriculture. . . . That increased purchasing power has found its way to every industrial community. In fact about 40 percent of the improvement in the general business situation may be ascribed to the increase in the purchasing power of the rural areas. It is now generally conceded that the first great impetus to general revival came in the agricultural

areas. This fact and the general spread of improvement in agriculture and industry is adequate tribute to those of you who aided in developing the programs.

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**PROBLEMS OF SURPLUS STILL WITH US** It is unfortunate that the agriculture program could not have gone on uninterrupted. However, I wish to call your attention to some of the fundamentals of the situation that confronts us now. One of them is the cultivation of 50 million acres whose products used to have a market but which now have no market, or only a poor one. Due to our creditor position, foreign tariffs, and other reasons, the products of these lands have a terribly demoralizing effect on our agricultural price structure whenever weather conditions are favorable. In 1934, the adjustment programs kept 36 millions of these acres out of production of the basic crops. In 1935, 30 million acres were transferred to other kinds of production. Millions of these acres were transferred to the production of legumes and grasses. . . . If there is no control in 1936 and weather conditions are favorable we can well imagine what will happen to these products which depend directly or indirectly on the world market, and we must give consideration to the effects of price declines upon business in the agricultural regions and in the industrial centers. The problem of 50 million surplus acres is still with us. Neither the drought of 1934 nor the AAA programs of 1934 and 1935 have caused them to disappear. They are still here. They are as much the concern of business as of agriculture. They are a national problem. We believe that a plan can be devised which will use these 50 million acres in such a way as to serve the long-time welfare of the farmer, the consumer, and the voiceless land.

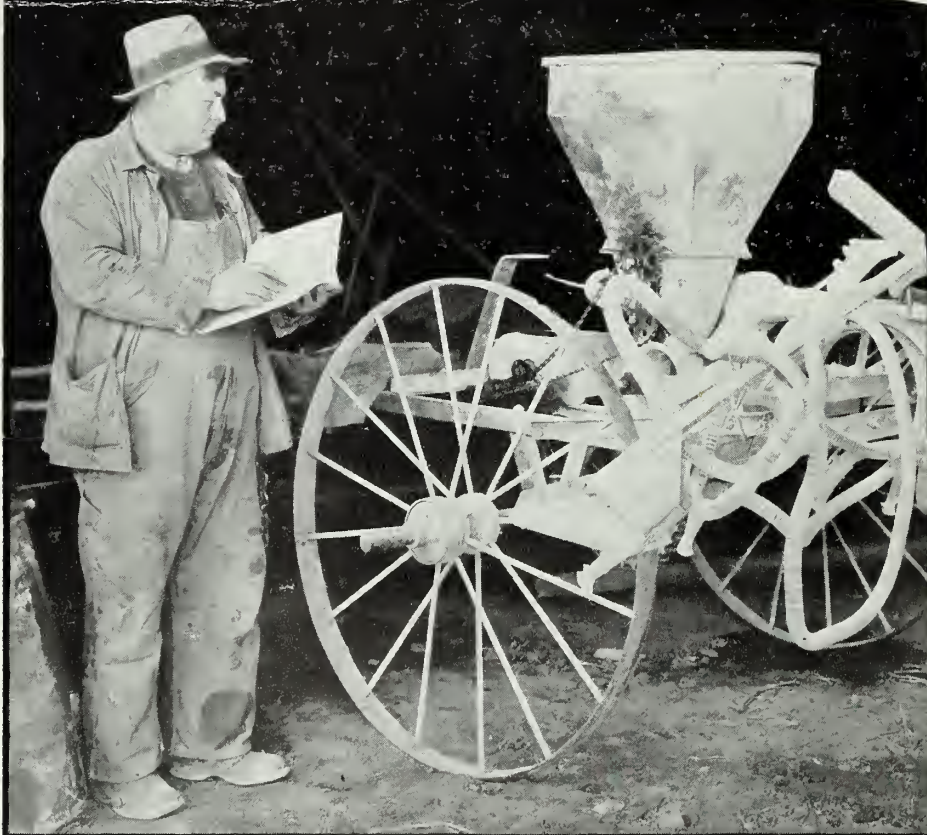
*Excerpts from remarks made by the Secretary at the meeting of farm leaders, Washington, D. C., January 10, 1936.*

## IT'S INVENTORY TIME FOR FARMERS

In this day and age it's the wise farmer who knows his own farm. The farm without an inventory is like a ship without a rudder. Better farm business management and the requirements of credit organizations make farm inventories essential.

Here are some publications on credit, accounts, and inventories which will help in teaching farmers how to take inventories. Write for them.

- Farm Record Book (AAA 270 Revised).
- Suggested Materials for Use in Conducting a Farm Inventory Campaign. (Mimeographed.)
- The Use of a Diary for Farm Accounts, Farmers' Bulletin 782.
- A Method of Analyzing the Farm Business, Farmers' Bulletin 1139.
- Farm Inventories, Farmers' Bulletin 1182.
- Farm Budgeting, Farmers' Bulletin 1564.
- How Much Are You Worth?, printed insert published by Farm Credit Administration.



**EXTENSION  
SERVICE  
UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE**

Washington  
D. C.